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Report of the Trade and Development Board on its twenty-eighth executive session*
Geneva, 12 March 2002)

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Chapter I
Matters requiring action by the Board arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary bodies

(Agenda item 2)

A. Report of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, sixth session (4-8 February 2002)

1. The representative of **Switzerland**, speaking in his capacity as **Vice-President of the Commission**, introduced the report of the Commission (TD/B/COM.1/49) and commended it for endorsement by the Board.

Action by the Board

2. The Board took note of the report of the Commission, endorsed the recommendations and agreed conclusions contained therein, approved the provisional agenda for the Commission's next session, and approved the topics for the next cycle of expert meetings.

B. Report of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, sixth session (21-25 January 2002)

3. The representative of **Brunei Darussalam**, speaking in his capacity as **President of the Commission**, introduced the report of the Commission (TD/B/COM.2/40). The outcomes of the Commission's session had exceeded expectations. With regard to the Commission's recommendations on the impact of international investment flows on development, some could be carried out within the framework of the regular programme, while others would need additional funding. On international arrangements for technology transfer, the Commission's recommendations represented a creditable contribution to international consensus-building in a complex and sensitive area. Concerning investment policy reviews, a meeting on the investment policy review (IPR) of Botswana was scheduled for 11 June 2002, back to back with the first expert meeting, and it was proposed that the IPR for Ghana could be discussed at a meeting on 5 November 2002, back to back with the second expert meeting. Those arrangements would be subject to review in the Mid-term Review. Finally, the interaction between the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) and the Commission had been innovative and successful.

Action by the Board

4. The Board took note of the report of the Commission, endorsed the recommendations and agreed conclusions contained therein, approved the provisional agenda for the Commission's next session, and approved the topics for the next cycle of expert meetings.

C. Report of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development, sixth session (18-21 February 2002)

5. The representative of **Zimbabwe**, speaking in his capacity as **Vice-President of the Commission**, introduced the report of the Commission (TD/B/COM.3/46).

Action by the Board

6. The Board took note of the report of the Commission, endorsed the recommendations and agreed conclusions contained therein, approved the provisional agenda for the Commission's next session, and approved the topics for the next cycle of expert meetings.

Statements

7. The representative of **Spain**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, said that the sixth session of the Commission on Investment had been particularly interesting, and the investment policy review for the United Republic of Tanzania had served as a good example of how future reviews could be organized. In the Commission on Trade, the secretariat had demonstrated the importance it attached to post-Doha capacity-building and technical cooperation, and in the Commission on Enterprise, the UNCTAD approach to the gender issue had been strengthened through the recommendation to have a gender focal point in each division.

8. With regard to the Commissions' methods of work, once again too much time had been spent on negotiating agreed conclusions at the expense of substantive discussions. Appropriate measures would have to be taken in the Mid-term Review in that connection. Concerning the Commissions' outcomes, the Commissions had made about 60 recommendations to the secretariat, and it would be important for the secretariat to indicate whether it could actually implement the recommendations. The European Union had repeatedly warned against overloading the secretariat.

9. Finally, the Commissions' sessions had been influenced by the Mid-term Review and the Doha Conference. Concerning the Mid-term Review, the Commissions' conclusions could be revisited during the Review in order to ensure their consistency with the priorities to be established by the Board at its nineteenth special session in May 2002. With regard to the post-Doha process, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) would have to cooperate closely to implement the relevant capacity-building and technical cooperation projects.

10. The representative of **Paraguay**, speaking on behalf of the **Latin American and Caribbean Group**, said that the Mid-term Review process was intended to evaluate the implementation of the Bangkok Plan of Action and the effectiveness of UNCTAD's work, but the effectiveness of UNCTAD could not be enhanced if it was subjected to cuts. The Bangkok Plan of Action must be fully implemented, and for that UNCTAD's capacity to take initiatives must be preserved. The Commissions tended simply to react, instead of discussing the policy implications of UNCTAD's work, so more time would have to be devoted to policy discussions. The developing countries were embarking on a series of new negotiations in various bodies, and were facing implementation problems. They therefore hoped for UNCTAD's support, and UNCTAD could only give that support if it was not weakened.

11. The representative of **Uganda**, speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, reiterated the Group's support for capacity-building activities related to the post-Doha process and noted that work had been identified for all divisions in UNCTAD. Post-Doha activities represented new activities, for which additional human and financial resources should be made available to UNCTAD. The African countries' capacity to participate in trade negotiations was important, but their capacity to participate in trade itself was equally if not more important. Developing the latter had been the cornerstone of the UNCTAD capacity-building activities as provided for in the Bangkok Plan of Action. Full implementation of the Plan of Action remained the major challenge facing UNCTAD, and many of the Commissions' recommendations were in line with that goal.

12. Regarding the implementation of paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action (TD/386), the UNCTAD secretariat had demonstrated that it had the capacity to implement that mandate fully. However, the resources were lacking, and it was hoped that development partners would consider funding the programme.

13. The representative of **Venezuela** said that her delegation attached great importance to UNCTAD's work in all areas of action of the Commissions. The Commissions' results were valuable for development and for UNCTAD's future work. All the Commissions' recommendations should be implemented, and in particular the secretariat should follow up on the work of the expert meetings, for example, in the area of energy services. At the same time, it must be noted that the Commissions had not been fully satisfactory in terms of the substantive results produced, and the participation of experts from developing countries in expert meetings had been affected by funding problems. Her delegation would contribute to any efforts to optimize the results of UNCTAD meetings and their contribution to development, and more broadly it would support anything that improved UNCTAD rather than weakening it. Finally, it was important that UNCTAD documentation be provided in good time in Spanish.

14. The representative of **Egypt**, speaking on behalf of the **Group of 77 and China**, said that the Commission sessions had been very enriching, and it was hoped that there would be the necessary political will in all countries to implement the Commissions' recommendations. It was also hoped that the donors would provide the necessary financial support and that a lasting solution would be found for the financing of experts. The working methods of the Commissions would be discussed within the framework of the Mid-term Review.

15. The representative of **Switzerland** said that, in the post-Doha context, UNCTAD's ambitious plan to strengthen its technical cooperation with developing countries and countries with economies in transition was welcome. UNCTAD had an undoubted comparative advantage in the field of technical cooperation. UNCTAD would have to work in close cooperation with other organizations, and the experience with the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme to Selected Least Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP) should be built on in such cooperative efforts, in particular the integrated framework. All duplication with WTO technical assistance should be avoided.

16. With regard to the Mid-term Review and the functioning of the intergovernmental machinery, the goal should be to identify weaknesses in order to agree on how to overcome them by UNCTAD XI at the latest. UNCTAD must be effective and well equipped to meet new development challenges. Expert meetings

should be able to meet twice on the same topic in order to enhance continuity, consolidate their work and encourage more experts to attend. The Commissions should strengthen the dialogue between the secretariat and member States and between donors and recipients on UNCTAD's technical cooperation. They should avoid giving the secretariat too many tasks and concentrate on examining the expert meetings' recommendations with a view to their follow-up at the national level. With regard to the Board, the suggestions to have two shorter regular sessions each year and to use executive sessions to discuss important topical issues deserved consideration.

17. Finally, his country attached great importance to the follow-up to UNCTAD X and to the active participation of the least developed countries (LDCs), along with the other developing countries, in that process. It would therefore contribute $25,000 to fund the participation of LDCs in the Mid-term Review in Bangkok.

18. The representative of the **United States of America** said that he agreed with many of the comments made about the intergovernmental machinery, for example, that not enough time was being spent on substantive discussions. It would be important to take a hard look at the structure and format of the machinery, though the goal should be to make adjustments, not total change.

19. The representative of **South Africa** said that, in examining issues arising from the work of the various subsidiary bodies of UNCTAD, his delegation had several considerations in mind, namely, the vision set out in the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the need to fulfil the commitments made at UNCTAD X, the need to take into account important developments in the world economy, and the need to evaluate those developments in the light of available resources. UNCTAD should be focused yet flexible to allow it to remain proactive and relevant.

20. The outcome of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of WTO at Doha posed important challenges to developing countries, and his delegation welcomed the UNCTAD plan for capacity-building and technical cooperation. At the same time, UNCTAD's work on the post-Doha process should not divert resources from UNCTAD's regular work, so there was an urgent need for additional resources.

21. To benefit effectively from the opening of markets, many developing countries still had to achieve higher levels of productivity, diversification and competitiveness, and UNCTAD recommendations should reflect those objectives. The major challenge remained poverty eradication, and in that connection developing countries must be in a position to design appropriate policies to attract investment. UNCTAD had proven its capabilities in that area. In making its recommendations, the Board should recognize the need for cooperation with the international community and pay particular attention to the needs of LDCs.

22. With regard to the follow-up to paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action, the fact that future courses would involve more participants was welcome. Future courses would have to be properly financed on a sustainable basis, and donors were called on to support the activity. Finally, the prioritization of recommendations should reflect the commitments made in Bangkok and new challenges posed by the rapidly evolving economic environment.

23. The representative of **Norway** said that, with regard to the work of the Commissions, less time should be spent on drafting conclusions and more time on discussing policy issues. In the Commission on Trade, the discussion on the follow-

up to the Ministerial Conference at Doha had been welcome. In the Commission on Investment, the discussions on IPRs should focus on how to attract foreign direct investment (FDI); the discussion on gender, a horizontal issue, had been welcome. In adopting the Commission reports, the Board should keep the Mid-term Review in mind. One area of emphasis should be the follow-up to the Doha Conference, and partnerships with other agencies would be important in that regard. In general, it would be important to set priorities, and that would facilitate resource mobilization. With respect to the Mid-term Review itself, the whole intergovernmental machinery would have to be looked at, including the Board, which could perhaps hold more executive sessions and must devote sufficient time to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010. To enable LDCs to participate in the Mid-term Review in Bangkok, his country would make a contribution of approximately $30,000.

24. The representative of **Cuba** said that the limited participation of developing country experts in expert meetings as a result of lack of funding was a matter for concern. If developing countries' views were not injected into the intergovernmental process at the very outset, the final outcome would not reflect the development focus of UNCTAD. The Board must therefore find a solution to the problem of financing the participation of experts; financing must be foreseeable and sustainable and must increase the participation of developing country experts. With respect to the European Union's concern that the Commissions produced too many recommendations, in fact that was a good thing and reflected the need to formulate strategies and policies in UNCTAD.

25. The representative of **Bangladesh**, speaking on behalf of the **least developed countries**, said that the Commissions' recommendations referred to a number of LDC-specific studies, and it was hoped that those studies would be done soon. Post-Doha activities were very important, but they should not be at the expense of other ongoing activities. The UNCTAD plan for post-Doha capacity-building and technical cooperation was welcome but would only work if donors contributed. He called on donors to do so, as well as to strengthen the LDC Trust Fund. While it was important for LDCs to participate in WTO negotiations, it was just as important for them to enhance their trade-related supply capacity.

26. With regard to the Mid-term Review, it was hoped that the question of the possibility of establishing a standing committee on LDCs would be resolved. He thanked Switzerland and Norway for their announced contributions for the participation of LDCs in the Mid-term Review, and hoped that others would contribute too.

27. The **Director of the Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development**, responding to points raised, said that a special project of technical cooperation and capacity-building related to the decisions of the Doha Ministerial Conference was under preparation. Activities were also being undertaken to support the work of the WTO working groups on the interrelationships between trade and investment and trade and technology transfer. In the area of science and technology for development (STD), the secretariat was in the process of elaborating a comprehensive programme of STD diplomacy aimed at assisting developing country diplomats to deal with science and technology issues, including within the context of WTO work. UNCTAD was continuing its work concerning the Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and was willing to provide specific

support in that area to individual developing countries upon request. UNCTAD cooperated in those endeavours with the TRIPS Council of WTO. Issues of technology transfer were also covered in a number of IPRs that had been prepared recently or were under preparation. The three expert panels of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development would undertake in 2002-2003 in-depth consideration of technology development and capacity-building for competitiveness in a digital society. In the area of international investment, the secretariat was continuing its work aimed at assisting interested developing countries and economies in transition in attracting FDI and benefiting from it, and improving investment policies. A number of UNCTAD publications considered investment issues, and the *World Investment Report 2002* would specifically address the theme of investment targeting. The Investment Advisory Council created further to the decisions of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries had started its work in the context of preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development at Monterrey.

28. With respect to the follow-up to the decisions of the sixth session of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development, work was under way on accounting by small and medium enterprises (SMEs). A meeting of the consultative group of experts on this issue was to be held in April 2002, and consideration of this theme was to be finalized at the nineteenth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting in September 2002. Efforts were being undertaken to prepare an inventory of best practices in accessing finance by developing countries. The issue of transnational corporation (TNC)-SME linkages remained on the agenda of UNCTAD's work as well as the gender dimension of entrepreneurship development.

29. The **Officer-in-Charge of the Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities**, responding to points raised with regard to the implementation of agreed recommendations of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, said that some of those recommendations were directly related to the ongoing work of the Division, while others were giving specificity to the more general mandates spelled out in the Plan of Action adopted by UNCTAD X. The secretariat had started to implement some of the recommendations, one example being the meeting with the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on organic agriculture (Nuremberg, 18 and 19 February 2002). That meeting had recommended the creation of the FAO/UNCTAD/IFOAM task force to explore an international framework for the harmonization of guarantee systems. Furthermore, in cooperation with the European Commission and the secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, a workshop on ways to enhance the production and export capacities of developing countries in organic agriculture had been held in Brussels (21 and 22 February 2002). In the area of commodities, assistance relating to the post-Doha process was being provided upon request (preparation of a discussion note on single commodity exporters and assistance to the African Group on their WTO submission). Assistance was also being provided on capacity-building for diversification and commodity-based development through workshops on organic products (Cuba — already held — and Peru), fish (Gambia) and horticulture (Guinea, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria). With regard to market information and

analysis, analytical work on selected commodities was under way (coffee, cocoa, grains, sugar, vegetable oils, horticultural products, bananas and petroleum products). Organizing additional capacity-building workshops would depend on the availability of extrabudgetary resources. Finally, a progress report on the implementation of agreed recommendations and conclusions would be presented to the Commission at its seventh session.

30. The **Deputy Director of the Division for Services Infrastructure for Development and Trade Efficiency**, reporting on progress made since the last meeting of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development, said that the Electronic Commerce Branch had already begun work to fulfil its mandate. In particular, as regards the intergovernmental component, work was well under way for the preparation of the background report for the Expert Meeting on the Basic Elements of an Enabling Environment for E-Commerce, to be held in July 2002. As regards the technical assistance component, at least two regional workshops would be held in the course of 2002. Efforts had also been made to mainstream gender in the work of the Branch: in particular, a chapter on "E-Commerce and Gender" would be included in the 2002 edition of the *E-Commerce and Development Report*, consultations had been held with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) regarding the collection of gender-disaggregated statistics and a focal point on gender would soon be named. The work assigned to the Branch under the post-Doha item was in line with the Bangkok Plan of Action, in particular because it reflected the priority of raising awareness of the potential benefits of electronic commerce for developing countries. It did not, therefore, represent an additional mandate, and that was also the case for the other items discussed by the Commission.

31. A representative of the **UNCTAD secretariat**, referring to the Expert Meeting on Electronic Commerce and International Transport Services, held in September 2001, recalled that the recommendations reflected the Bangkok Plan of Action and helped the secretariat to better define the mandates contained in the relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Action. Recommendations concentrated on information, analysis, and technical assistance and training. The secretariat had already started to implement recommendations, particularly those referring to the provision of information and the development and delivery of training materials.

32. The outcome of the Commission was a clear indication of the need for an integrated approach to transport and trade facilitation. There was a close linkage between post-Doha activities in the field of trade facilitation and the topic of the future expert meeting agreed upon by the Commission. The post-Doha technical assistance proposal had been finalized and submitted to potential donors for funding. In preparing for the expert meeting, UNCTAD would cooperate closely with the United Nations and other international organizations, as called for in the Commission's recommendations. In that context, he drew attention to the cooperation with the Economic Commission for Europe in the preparation and conduct of the Forum on Trade Facilitation, scheduled to be held in May 2002.

D. Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on its resumed thirty-eighth session (17 and 18 January 2002)

33. The representative of **Italy**, speaking in his capacity as **Chairperson of the Working Party**, introduced the report of the Working Party (TD/B/49/2).

Action by the Board

34. The Board took note of the report of the Working Party and endorsed the conclusions contained therein.

Chapter II
Follow-up to paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action

(Agenda item 3)

35. The **President** recalled that, at the forty-eighth session of the Trade and Development Board, the secretariat had been requested to provide feedback on the impact of the training course on "Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda", which had been held in June-July 2001 and for which a final evaluation had been conducted six months after the end of the course. The Advisory Body established in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action (TD/386), which had met on 8 March 2002, had taken note of the contents of the reports produced by the secretariat and expressed its satisfaction with the evaluation of the training course. The report and final evaluation were contained in documents TD/B/EX(28)/2 and Add.1 and 2.

36. The Advisory Body had also taken a decision on the conduct of the next training course, the theme, the location and funding. The second training course would be on "Trade and Development", with linkages to sectoral issues to reflect the interrelationship between the two. Forty participants would be selected to attend the course, including 10 from LDCs. The course would again be held at Geneva and Turin, from 17 July to 13 August 2002. Funds were available from the Development Account for the conduct of this and other courses envisaged under paragraph 166. A notification relating to the next course would be sent out by the secretariat.

37. The Advisory Body would meet again to decide on the conduct of training courses in the different regions in 2002 and 2003.

38. The representative of **Egypt**, speaking on behalf of the **Group of 77 and China**, noted the positive feedback from participants on the first training course. He acknowledged the excellent level of preparation by the secretariat for the course and the professionalism of the chosen speakers. The topics covered by the course remained of great interest, especially in light of the work programme of the World Trade Organization after its Fourth Ministerial Conference. He noted that three courses would be organized each year, with more participants attending each course. The courses should be distributed geographically and conducted in different languages. They should be financed from the regular budget to ensure predictability. The organization of additional resources could be subject to the availability of funds from extrabudgetary resources.

39. The representative of **Spain**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, said that the Trade and Development Board had the capacity to take decisions on the conduct of further training courses. Concerning the Advisory Body established in connection with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action, because of the late notification for the most recent meeting on 8 March 2002, there had not been sufficient time to study the reports and to prepare for the agenda items. He noted the decisions of the Advisory Body but stated that conducting courses at the regional level reduced the cost per participant. Given the conditions imposed by the Development Account, he was surprised that the next course was planned for Geneva and Turin but that none was planned at the regional level. His criticisms should be viewed positively and did not mean that the European Union did not favour paragraph 166.

40. The **Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD** said that the secretariat's first concern was effective delivery of courses, and this was best achieved by a combination of courses conducted at Geneva/Turin and the regions, as reported at the last Advisory Body meeting. The use of funds from the Development Account did not preclude the holding of courses in Geneva/Turin. Courses taught in different languages could not be envisaged, as the secretariat did not have the necessary capacity. However, courses conducted away from Geneva/Turin would benefit from the analytical work and views of UNCTAD's partners at the regional level, while the language issue could be addressed to some extent through lectures conducted by experts in the regions.

41. A **representative of the UNCTAD secretariat** reported that regional meetings would be considered at the next Advisory Body meeting in April. The notification for the last meeting had been late because replies relating to the final evaluation of the first training course had been received as late as February 2002. Links were being established with research centres, including the United Nations University, for the future conduct of these courses. Details would be provided to members of the Advisory Body for their comments.

42. The **President of the Board** recalled that, in its decision 466 (XLVII) of 20 October 2000 establishing the Advisory Body, the Board had decided that the Advisory Body would not be a subsidiary organ of the Board and would not be part of the intergovernmental structure of UNCTAD. The President of the Advisory Body, who was also President of the Board, would inform the Board of the Advisory Body's activities.

Chapter III
Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters

(Agenda item 4)

Opening of the session

43. The twenty-eighth executive session of the Trade and Development Board was opened on 12 March 2002 by Mr. Ali Said Mchumo (United Republic of Tanzania), President of the Board.

Bureau of the twenty-eighth executive session

44. The Bureau of the Board at its twenty-eighth executive session was as elected at its forty-eighth session, namely:

President:

Mr. Ali Said Mchumo (United Republic of Tanzania)

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. Iouri Afanassiev (Russian Federation)
Mr. Toufik Ali (Bangladesh)
Mr. Federico Alberto Cuello Camilo (Dominican Republic)
Mrs. Eleanor M. Fuller (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul (Thailand)
Mr. Douglas M. Griffiths (United States of America)
Mr. Nathan Irumba (Uganda)
Mr. Toshiyuki Iwado (Japan)
Mr. Kalman Petocz (Slovakia)
Mr. Jacques Scavee (Belgium)

Rapporteur:

Mr. Federico Perazza Scapino (Uruguay)

Adoption of the agenda

45. The Board adopted the provisional agenda for its twenty-eighth executive session (TD/B/EX(28)/1). The agenda was thus as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Matters requiring action by the Board arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary bodies:
   (a) Report of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, sixth session (4-8 February 2002)
   (b) Report of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, sixth session (21-25 January 2002)
   (c) Report of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development, sixth session (18-21 February 2002)

(d) Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on its resumed thirty-eighth session (17 and 18 January 2002)

3. Follow-up to paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action

4. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

– Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

5. Other business

6. Report of the Board on its twenty-eighth executive session

Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

46. For its consideration of this sub-item, the Board had before it the following documentation:

(a) International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM): note by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/EX(28)/R.1);

(b) Application by the International Environmental Law Research Centre (IELC): note by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/EX(28)/R.2).

Action by the Board

47. Acting on the recommendation of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Bureau, the Board agreed to designate the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and the International Environmental Law Research Centre (IELC) for the purposes of rule 77 of its rules of procedure and to classify them in the Special Category in accordance with the terms of paragraph 12 (b) of Board decision 43 (VII) so that they might participate in the activities of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities and of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development.

Inclusion of national non-governmental organizations in the Register in conformity with Board decision 43 (VII)

48. For its consideration of this sub-item, the Board had before it the following documentation:

(a) National Programme to Prevent, Combat and Provide Humanitarian Assistance to the Victims of Natural Disasters (PRONAPLUCAN): note by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/EX(28)/L.1);

(b) Fundación Forum Ambiental (FFA): note by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/EX(28)/L.2);

(c) Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (TD/B/EX(28)/L.3).

49. The Board was informed that, in conformity with the provisions of Board decision 43 (VII), sections III and IV, and after consultation with the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Spain and India, the Secretary-General of

UNCTAD had decided to enter in the Register of national non-governmental organizations provided for under Board decision 43 (VII) the National Programme to Prevent, Combat and Provide Humanitarian Assistance to the Victims of Natural Disasters (PRONAPLUCAN), Fundación Forum Ambiental (FFA) and the Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS).

Report of the Board on its twenty-eighth executive session

50. The Board authorized the Rapporteur to prepare the report on its current session under the authority of the President.

Annex

Attendance*

1. The following States members of UNCTAD were represented at the session:

Argentina
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Belarus
Benin
Bolivia
Brazil
Bulgaria
China
Colombia
Congo
Croatia
Cuba
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Honduras
Indonesia
India
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Latvia
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malaysia
Malta
Mexico
Mongolia
Morocco
Nepal
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Panama
Paraguay
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Russian Federation
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Singapore

* For the list of participants, see TD/B/EX(28)/INF.1.

Slovakia

South Africa

Spain

Sri Lanka

Switzerland

Syrian Arab Republic

Thailand

Tunisia

Uganda

Ukraine

United States of America

Yemen

Zambia

Zimbabwe

2. The following States members of UNCTAD were represented as observers at the session:

Brunei Darussalam

Estonia

Holy See

3. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States

Common Fund for Commodities

European Community

Islamic Development Bank

League of Arab States

4. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented at the session:

International Telecommunication Union

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

World Trade Organization

5. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO were represented at the session.

6. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session:

General Category

Europe-Third World Centre

Exchange and Cooperation Centre for Latin America

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions